

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Online resources for aid administrators

- [Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site](#)
- [HECB secure Web site for aid administrators](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [State Work Study](#)
- [Washington Promise Scholarship](#)
- [Educational Opportunity Grant](#)
- [Washington Scholars Program](#)
- [WAVE](#)
- [Other state aid programs](#)
- [Past issues of the *Financial Aid News* and other publications](#)
- [Washington Financial Aid Association](#)
- [Western Association of Financial Aid Administrators](#)
- [Western Association of Student Employment Administrators](#)
- [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#)



Higher Education
Coordinating Board

HECBFinancialAid@hecb.wa.gov

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov>

All material used
by permission.
Copyright laws apply.
The Higher Education
Coordinating Board
neither endorses nor
claims responsibility
for the accuracy
of information reported
from secondary sources.

Issue 24 — April 4, 2003

In this issue:

- Legislative update
- No hearings scheduled on bills of interest next week
- Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation
- Active bills of interest

Legislative update

Senate budget increases SNG, WAVE and Scholars programs, maintains other programs

The state Senate today passed a 2003-05 operating budget with a \$32.3 million biennial increase to the State Need Grant (SNG) program.

The additional SNG funding is meant to provide a dollar-for-dollar grant increase to cover tuition increases of up to 9 percent per year for students with family incomes up to 55 percent of the state's median. The authorized tuition increases for resident undergraduates are also part of the bill.

Senators also increased funding for the Washington Scholars and Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) programs by a combined total of nearly \$2 million. Those increases would restore

Save the date!

Annual financial aid workshops at a location near you

The Board will offer its annual State Student Financial Aid Workshops in four different locations next month:

- **Yakima** — Thursday, May 15 — Yakima Valley Community College
- **Spokane** — Friday, May 16 — Whitworth College
- **Seattle** — Wednesday, May 21 — North Seattle Community College
- **Centralia** — Thursday, May 22 — Centralia College

Each workshop covers 2003-04 updates and provides basic training on State Need Grant, State Work Study, Educational Opportunity Grant, and some of the smaller aid programs. For more information, contact Colleen Scovill at colleens@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7850.

the full value of the tuition-based awards and reflect students' increased use of Washington Scholars awards in recent years.

The Senate budget, Senate Bill 5404, would maintain 2001-03 funding for other aid programs, including State Work Study (SWS), Promise Scholarships, and Educational Opportunity Grants.

With the state facing a \$2.6 billion budget shortfall over the next 2 years, needy and meritorious students fared better than many groups under the spending plan.

The Senate budget includes no new taxes, and would cut deeply into nearly every area of state government. Colleges and universities would see a variety of major cuts in instructional and non-instructional costs, only part of which would be recaptured through the authorized 9 percent tuition increases.

Nevertheless, some analysts point to the increases in need-based aid programs and some other investments in new higher education programs as a silver lining in an otherwise black budget cloud. And Senate cuts in K-12 and higher education do not appear to be as deep or as broad as those in health and human services or environmental programs.

The Senate budget now goes to the House for consideration. Most Hill watchers don't expect the House to act on the Senate plan. Instead, it will likely release its own budget in the next couple of weeks. Several House members have already said they want to see more funding for health and human services and for state employees.

Once the House passes its budget, members from both chambers will meet to hammer out a compromise plan. Both chambers must approve the compromise plan, which then goes to the governor for signature. The governor can also veto the entire budget bill or portions of it.

Senate budget: financial aid and select higher education highlights

As passed today, the Senate budget includes the following:

- **State Need Grant (SNG)** sees an increase of \$32.3 million, intended to provide a dollar-for-dollar increase to cover tuition increases for eligible students with family incomes up to 55 percent of the state's median.
- **Washington Scholars and Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE)** see a combined increase of nearly \$2 million to restore the value of the tuition-based scholarships and reflect increased use of Scholars awards.

- **State Work Study (SWS), Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG), Promise and other aid programs** are maintained at 2001-03 funding levels.
- Institutions are directed to reduce **tuition waivers** by 10 percent.
- **Tuition increases** are authorized up to 9 percent per year. If Senate Bill 5448 (the governor's tuition bill) also becomes law, the cap applies only to resident undergraduates; schools would have full tuition-setting authority for all other groups of students.
- **Base funding** for colleges and universities decreases by nearly \$123 million, but may be recovered through tuition increases.
- **"Non-instructional" institutional funding** decreases \$45 million, and cannot be recovered through tuition increases.

You can find the complete Senate budget, along with summaries and highlights, online: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2003/so0305p.asp>.

April 4 is cutoff for committee approval of bills from opposite houses

Today is the last day that most legislative committees can consider bills referred to them by the opposite house. We should see the number of bills with a chance of passage this session dwindle significantly after this cutoff.

Next week, the *News* will provide an update about which bills are still moving forward and which appear to be dead for the rest of this session. Bills still in play have to pass in their opposite houses by April 18.

House Higher Education Committee recommends passage of EOG proposal

In its efforts to move legislation before the April 4 cutoff, the House Higher Education Committee this morning recommended that the full House pass Engrossed Senate Bill 5676, bringing changes to the Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) program.

The legislation would allow financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties to apply for the program. The program is currently limited to 13 counties. Recipients could also attend branch campuses of the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Because of an amendment from the Senate floor last month, the bill also opens eligibility for the Promise Scholarship to some recipients of GED certificates. To be eligible, applicants with GEDs would need to meet the program's family income criteria, be 21 years old or younger at the time of application, and achieve at least a 1200 composite SAT score or a 27 composite ACT score on their first attempt.

For more information about legislation, contact us at (360) 753-7850.

No legislative hearings scheduled on bills of interest next week

As yet, there are no scheduled hearings next week on bills that the Board has been tracking. Next week, lawmakers turn most of their attention to the budget and transportation. If we hear of committees taking up any bills of interest, we'll notify you by e-mail.

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	http://www.tvw.org
HECB 2003 legislative session site:	http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp

Active bills of interest by subject

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill numbers Senate House	Sponsors	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
2003-05 operating budget					
SB 5404	Rossi	Makes 2003-05 operating appropriations	✓		
Educational Opportunity Grant and Washington Promise Scholarship					
ESB 5676	Kohl-Welles	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; HECB establishes grant amounts As amended, allows some recipients of GED certificates to be eligible for Promise scholarships	✓		
SHB 1731	Kenney, Cox	Changes elements of the Educational Opportunity Grant program; financially needy placebound residents from all of the state's 39 counties may be eligible; recipients could attend branch campuses; grant amounts capped at \$2,500	✓		
Financial aid carry-forward					
2SHB 1123	Kenney, Cox	Ensures that unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year are preserved for financial aid purposes through the creation of a dedicated account	✓		

Active bills of interest by subject — continued

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill numbers Senate House	Sponsors	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
Financial aid refunds					
HB 2113	Morrell, Cox	Permits four-year public institutions to adopt tuition refund policies that reduce aid recipients' liability in required repayments of federal aid	✓		
Other financial aid and tuition waiver proposals					
SSB 5189	Benton	Exempts veterans of the Korean conflict (active duty from 1950-55) from tuition increases	✓		
ESHB 1277	Kenney, Cox	Companion bills create a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program	✓		
SHB 1486	O'Brien	Exempts the surviving spouses and children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters from paying tuition and fees	✓		
ESHB 2089	McCoy, Wallace	Creates a new veterans tuition statute to replace existing law; as amended, permits waivers for veterans of wars and, under some circumstances, for their children and spouses	✓		

Active bills of interest by subject — continued

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill numbers Senate House	Sponsors	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
Higher Education Coordinating Board					
ESHB 2076	Kenney, Cox, Fromhold	Replaces Board's current mandate to develop a state master plan for higher education every four years with new guidelines to develop a strategic plan for higher education; authorizes a joint legislative committee to examine and make recommendations for changing or reassigning Board program responsibilities	✓		
TANF and WorkFirst related proposals					
HB 2041	Kenney, Boldt	Allows students enrolled in a postsecondary program and earning their full federal or state work study awards to count as full-time WorkFirst participants for up to 24 months	✓		
Tuition and residency					
E2SSB 5135	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	Requires students with an excess of 125 percent of the credits required for a degree or certificate to pay tuition equivalent to the full cost of instruction	✓		
EHB 1079	Kenney, Cox	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington; student must have attended at least three years of high school in the state; similar, though not a companion to SSB 5158	✓		
ESSB 5448	Carlson, Kohl-Welles	Extends institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates through 2008-09; existing authority expires June 30, 2003	✓		

Active bills of interest by subject — continued

Bills that did not meet the latest cutoff have been deleted. For current information about the status of a bill, visit the Washington State Legislature's Web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>.

Bill numbers	Sponsors	Description	Passed house of origin	Passed opposite house	Signed by governor
Senate House					

Other higher education proposals

SHB 2111	Priest, Jarrett	As amended, provides for a legislative study of the feasibility of performance contracts between the state and institutions of higher education	✓		
-----------------	--------------------	---	---	--	--